

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 126543 POSS DUPE
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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EINV, CM

SUBJECT: COASTAL CAMEROON'S DISPUTE WITH GURC

1. ON MAY 16 SKIP STEVENS, AN ATTORNEY REPRESENTING
COASTAL STATES GAS CORPORATION OF HOUSTON, CALLED ON AF/C
OFFICER TO BRIEF DEPARTMENT ON STEPS BEING TAKEN BY COASTAL
STATES TO WORK OUT A SETTLEMENT WITH OCEANIC AND GURC
CONCERNING OFFSHORE OIL LEASE.

2. STEVENS REPORTED THAT ON DECEMBER 30, 1977 OCEANIC
AGREED TO SELL TO COASTAL CAMEROON 10 PERCENT INTEREST
IN EACH OF OCEANIC'S TWO CONCESSIONS IN CAMEROON.
COASTAL'S PARTICIPATION SUBJECT TO APPROVAL OF GURC. SUCH
APPROVAL WAS REQUESTED ON 26 JANUARY. HOWEVER, BEFORE
HEARING FROM GURC COASTAL PAID ELF SEREPCA AND OCEANIC
APPROXIMATELY \$200,000 FOR TEST WELL. ON 30 MARCH 1978,
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CAMEROON GOVERNMENT INFORMED COASTAL THAT ITS PARTICIPATION
IN OCEANIC CONCESSIONS WOULD NOT BE APPROVED.

3. COASTAL RETAINS STRONG DESIRE TO PARTICIPATE IN CON-
CESSIONS AND HAS BEEN WORKING WITH OCEANIC AND ELF TO SEE
IF EXCLUSION COULD BE REVERSED. ACCORDING TO STEVENS,
COASTAL'S 10 PERCENT HAS NOW BEEN ASSIGNED TO ELF SEREPCA.

COASTAL BELIEVES THAT SOME BAD FAITH AND/OR HANKY PANKY WAS INVOLVED IN ITS EXCLUSION.

4. COMPANY REPRESENTATIVES FROM HOUSTON AS WELL AS WASHINGTON LAW FIRM HAVE MOUNTED TWO DAY CONGRESSIONAL CAMPAIGN MAY 16 AND 17, INFORMING AMONG OTHERS, SENATOR STONE OF FLORIDA WHO WAS REPORTEDLY RECEPTIVE TO COASTAL'S COMPLAINTS. DEPARTMENT HAS NOT YET RECEIVED ANY CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES ON THIS SUBJECT.

5. COMMENT: COASTAL APPEARS TO BE APPROACHING PROBLEM BY POINTING OUT LEVELS OF US BILATERAL ASSISTANCE TO CONGRESSMAN IN CONJUNCTION WITH WHAT COASTAL PERCEIVES AS UNCOOPERATIVE POSITION BY GURC. IT WAS SUGGESTED TO STEVENS THAT LINKING AID TO COMMERCIAL PROBLEM NOT APPROPRIATE AND NOT HELPFUL IN RESOLVING THE ISSUE, BUT WOULD IN FACT ONLY COMPLICATE SITUATION, PERHAPS MAKING GURC MORE INTRANSIGENT. HE HAD NOT FOCUSED ON THAT ASPECT OF THE PROBLEM.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR AND/OR CAMEROONIAN VIEWS OF EVENTS. VANCE

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